



*GREAT LAKES
COMMISSION
DES GRANDS LACS*

**Réunion annuelle
Annual meeting
5 – 7 octobre 2008
Québec**



QUÉBEC UPDATE

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Délégué du Québec à Chicago
Associate Commissioner, GLC

Merci à Louise Lapierre (MDDEP) et Pierre Brochu (MTQ)



A COMMITTED REGIONAL PARTNER: CONSENSUS IN QUÉBEC

- **IN A GLOBAL WORLD, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE NEED TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE INSEPARABLE**
- **OUR DAILY EXISTENCE MUST REFLECT THAT REALITY**
- **THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES NO LONGER RESPECT TRADITIONAL BORDERS**
- **REGIONAL PROBLEMS REQUIRE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS**



A COMMITTED REGIONAL PARTNER - suite

- **OVER A DOZEN MINISTERIES AND A WIDE RANGE OF PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS HAVE COMBINED THEIR RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THAT END**
- **THE MINISTERIES OF *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; TRANSPORTATION; SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT; NATURAL RESOURCES*, AS WELL AS THEIR MANY PARTNERS, ARE KEY PLAYERS IN THIS REGIONAL COMMITMENT**



TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS IN QUÉBEC: THE 21ST CENTURY IS HERE

- **THE GREAT LAKES/ST. LAWRENCE RIVER SYSTEM WILL PLAY AN EVER IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE COMING DECADES (TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM, ETC.)**
- **QUÉBEC WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE STRONG SUPPORT TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF TRANSPORTATION BASED UPON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MAXIMUM LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY AND SECURITY**
- **NEW *TRANSPORTATION POLICY* AFFIRMS THE NEED TO IMPROVE ALL METHODS OF WATER TRANSPORTATION, AS IT IS THE MOST ENERGY EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY**



TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS IN QUÉBEC - suite

- ***CREATES A FORUM, WHERE STAKEHOLDERS AND USERS CAN DISCUSS AND COORDINATE THEIR ACTION***
- ***FORUM CO-CHAIRLED BY THE QUÉBEC MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION/PRESIDENT OF THE ST. LAWRENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SODES)***



TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS IN QUÉBEC suite

- **PRIORITIES DEFINED BY NEW GOVERNMENT /INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP (GOV. \$9M; IND. \$70M)**
- **GRANTS TO INCREASE INTEGRATION OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION (\$20+ M.)**



TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS IN QUÉBEC suite

- ***ST. LAWRENCE ACTION PLAN - QUÉBEC AND CANADA CO-CHAIR A NAVIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDES BOTH, THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS AND USERS***

- ***SUSTAINABLE NAVIGATION STRATEGY (2004-2009) ADDRESSES:***
 - Integrated management of dredging and sediment removal
 - Navigation issues regarding water level fluctuation
 - Waste Water and Residue management
 - Environmental and socio-economic advantages of maritime transportation



TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS IN QUÉBEC suite

➤ **INDUSTRY HAS SINCE ISSUED ITS OWN *ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY* DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE ITS NAVIGATIONAL FOOTPRINT IN NATURE**

- Supported by government action within the *Green Alliance*

➤ **THE *IJC* - WATER LEVELS IN LAKE ONTARIO / ST. LAWRENCE**

- Québec is relieved by recent decision to postpone action
- Reflects Québec's concerns that water levels could be lowered to the point where the St. Lawrence would become largely unnavigable, especially with the added effects of climate change, along with few environmental gains
- Québec remains very concerned by the interim conclusions put forward by the *IJC*, and is looking forward to establishing a balanced and realistic solution for all partners involved



WATER MANAGEMENT IN QUÉBEC: A MODERN VISION - A NEW ERA

➤ **QUÉBEC WATER POLICY (2002)**

- *Watershed model* is adopted
- Applies to thirty-three (33) priority river basins

➤ **BLUE-GREEN ALGAE ACTION PLAN (2007)**

- Ten year plan (2007-2017)
- *Watershed model* extended to all river basins in S. Québec



CANADA-QUÉBEC AGREEMENT ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER (2005-10)

➤ **BASED UPON THE RECOGNIZED NEED TO:**

- Identify all partners, users and stakeholders
- Establish a process which allows for ongoing consultation
- Need for regional dialogue and consensus-building



CANADA-QUÉBEC AGREEMENT ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER (2005-10) - suite

- **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT**
- **A NEW FORM OF GOVERNANCE - *THE ST. LAWRENCE COMMITTEE***
 - A central body
 - Regional bodies
- **ALSO SERVES AS A LIAISON WITH OUR GREAT LAKES PARTNERS**



QUÉBEC AND INVASIVE SPECIES

- **FORMALLY COMMITTED TO BEING A PART OF THE SOLUTION IN THE REGION (*QUÉBEC'S INTERNATIONAL POLICY - 2006*)**
- **COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN IN FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION (MDDEP)**
- **SPECIAL PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT FOR 2009-2014**
- **ACTION PLAN DEFINED WITH PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS TO ADDRESS *DIDYMO* ALGAE PROBLEM IN QUÉBEC**
- **INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ERADICATION OF WATER CHESTNUT IN THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED (QUÉBEC PARTNERS; NEW YORK; VERMONT)**



QUÉBEC AND INVASIVE SPECIES -suite

- **ALSO IN THE OTTAWA RIVER WITH ONTARIO PARTNERS**
- **EXTENSIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDED RESEARCH ON CONTROL OF *COMMON REED***
- **NEW PILOT PROJECT - BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF *EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL* BY INTRODUCING THE *MILFOIL WEEVIL***
- **GOVERNMENT FUNDED DATA BASE, WEB SITES AND FACTSHEETS**
- **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN STUDY GROUPS/COMMITTEES WITHIN REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES**



CLIMATE CHANGE - ACTION PLAN (2006-2012)

- **MINIMUM FUNDING OF \$1.55 BILLION DOLLARS**
- **GOAL - TO REDUCE *GHG* EMISSIONS TO 6% BELOW 1990 LEVELS**
- **26 INDIVIDUAL MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN 11 KEY AREAS**
- **QUÉBEC JOINED THE *CLIMATE REGISTRY* IN 2007**
- **MEMBER OF THE *WESTERN CLIMATE INITIATIVE* IN APRIL, 2008**
- ***NEW INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY* IN MAY 2008**
 - Based upon sustainable development
 - Favours environmentally friendly industries and green technologies



CLIMATE CHANGE - ACTION PLAN (2006-2012)- suite

➤ **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING (\$60M THROUGH 2012) TO IMPLEMENT INTERMODAL PROJECTS WHICH CAN MINIMIZE GHG EMISSIONS**

➤ **SPECIAL FUNDING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS (OURANOS):**

- Develop new initiatives inspired by the best existing projects
- Address traditionally strategic areas using new and advanced tools
- Adopt innovative approaches in key sectors

➤ **PLAN RESEARCH TO INCORPORATE OTHER REGIONAL PARTNERS (eg. GREAT LAKES; CROSS BORDER RIVER BASINS)**

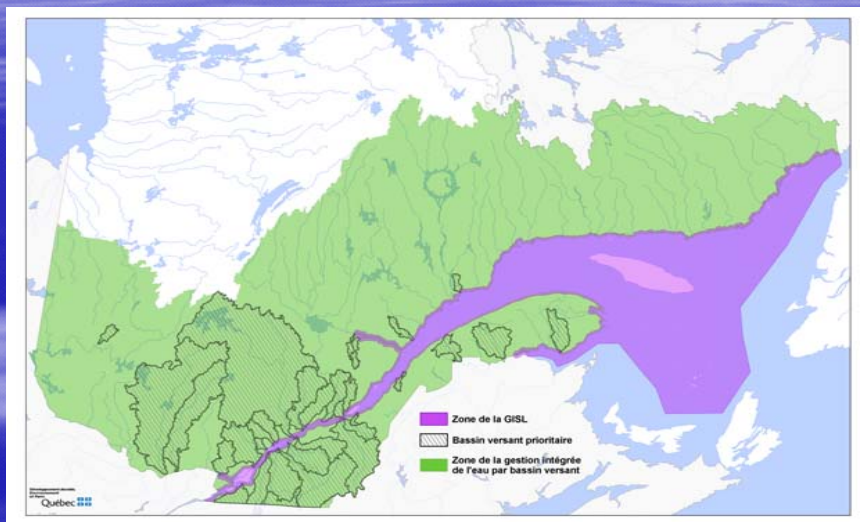


THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES AGREEMENT

- **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY IN THE QUÉBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 30 NOVEMBER 2006**
- **INITIATED THE PROCESS OF LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ADJUSTMENTS TO ALL EXISTING MEASURES IN THE AREA OF WATER WITHDRAWAL (E.G. BILL 92)**
- **ESTABLISHED A METHODOLOGY AND A DATA BASE TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF WATER WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN**
- **MANY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED LOCALLY (WATER CONSERVATION) AS PART OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE REGIONAL BODIES (DEC. 2007)**



The St. Lawrence Basin



Here you have in green the Integrated Watershed Management zone, the priority watersheds are hatched. The integrated management of the St.Lawrence zone is in purple





BILL 92

“An Act to Affirm the Collective Nature of Water Resources And Provide for Increased Water Resource Protection”

- **INTRODUCED IN QUÉBEC’S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE 2008**
- **PARLIAMENTARY / PUBLIC HEARINGS IN SEPTEMBER 2008**
- **EXPECTED DATE OF PASSAGE - NOVEMBER 2008**



BILL 92

WATER: A PRECIOUS RESOURCE - A NEW VISION

- ***AFFIRMS THE COLLECTIVE NATURE OF WATER RESOURCES IN QUÉBEC, THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER***

- ***BASED UPON THREE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:***
 - Users must pay
 - Prevention/precaution are essentials to water management
 - Continuous restoration and upkeep are pivotal elements



BILL 92
WATER: A PRECIOUS RESOURCE - A NEW VISION

- **PERMITS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO INITIATE CIVIL ACTION AGAINST PARTIES CAUSING ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE - AND TO ENSURE RESTORATION**
- **DEFINES NEW RULES OF WATER GOVERNANCE**
- **ESTABLISHES A *DIVISION OF WATER EXPERTISE* WITHIN THE *MDDEP***
- **CREATES A NEW *WATER WITHDRAWAL AUTHORITY* SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES**



BILL 92
WATER: A PRECIOUS RESOURCE - A NEW VISION

- **IMPLEMENTS THE AGREEMENT NEGOCIATED WITH OUR REGIONAL PARTNERS IN THE GREAT LAKES**
- **REAFFIRMS THE EXISTING PROHIBITION AGAINST THE EXPORT OF QUÉBEC'S WATER RESOURCES**
- **INCORPORATES INTO THE NEW BILL ALL RELATED CLAUSES OF EXISTING LAWS**

Merci beaucoup